

Message Text

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65-60

ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4020

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: AMERICAN BANK MANAGER DETAINED

REF: LUANDA 1157 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. THE AMERICAN CITIZEN MANAGER OF A LOCAL BANK AFFILIATED WITH CITIBANK WAS DETAINED ON AUGUST 19 BY THE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES ON SUSPICION OF TRYING TO SMUGGLE FOREIGN EXCHANGE OUT OF THE COUNTRY. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT AND NAIROBI PLEASE NOTIFY PERSONS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH SEVEN OF THIS TELEGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. AT 0900 HOURS ON AUGUST 19, AMERICAN CITIZEN ALLAN WILLIAMS, MANAGER OF THE BANCO INTER-UNIDO, AN AFFILIATE OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK, WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY TWO POLICE AGENTS AT THE AIRPORT AS HE WAS WAITING TO BOARD A FLIGHT TO WINDHOEK. HE WAS TAKEN WITH HIS LUGGAGE TO A COMMANDER OF THE NEW ANGOLAN POLICE CORPS (CPA), WHO EXPLAINED THAT A COMPLAINT (DENUNCIA) HAD BEEN LODGED WITH THE GOVERNMENT BY THE COORDINATING COMMISSION OF THE BANKS (SEE REFTEL) TO THE EFFECT THAT WILLIAMS WAS FLEEING WITH FOREIGN EXCHANGE INSTRUMENTS. THE POLICE SEARCHED HIS BAGGAGE IN THE PRESENCE OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COORDINATING COMMISSION AND A MEMBER OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE BANCO

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INTER-UNIDO.

3. WILLIAMS OBJECTED TO THE SEARCH OF SOME OF HIS MATERIAL, WHICH HE SAID, WAS PERSONAL OR HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEALINGS. HE WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL THE ACCUSATION HAD BEEN CLARIFIED. THE POLICE SET ASIDE THOSE THINGS WILLIAMS DID NOT WANT READ AND LOCKED THEM UP. HE INSISTED THAT THE POLICE CALL ME; THEY RESISTED, BUT AFTER HE REPEATED HIS REQUEST THREE TIMES, COMMANDER PETROFF, THE CHIEF OF THE CPA, CALLED ME AT 1300 TO TELL ME I SHOULD COME TO HIS OFFICE AT 1430. WHEN I ARRIVED PETROFF EXPLAINED THE ACCUSATION AND INFORMED ME THAT UNDER BOTH PORTUGUESE AND ANGOLAN LAW THE AUTHORITIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO HOLD SUSPECTS INCOMUNICADO FOR 48 HOURS, AFTER WHICH TIME THEY ARE EITHER CHARGED OR RELEASED. IN THIS CASE HE HAD DECIDED TO LET ME TALK TO WILLIAMS. I TOLD PETROFF THAT IF HE WERE NOT GOING TO RELEASE WILLIAMS RIGHT AWAY THAT HE SHOULD HAND HIM OVER TO MY CUSTODY AND I WOULD GUARANTEE HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES WHEN REQUIRED. PETROFF SAID HE WAS WAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIGHER AUTHORITY ON NEXT STEPS FOR SEARCHING WILLIAMS' PAPERS AND WOULD LET ME KNOW.

4. COMMANDER ESMIRITU SANTOS AND A WHITE INTERPRETER WENT ALONG WITH ME TO THE HOTEL TROPICO, WHERE WILLIAMS WAS HELD UNDER GUARD IN A ROOM BY TWO POLICEMEN. WILLIAMS GAVE ME THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PEOPLE WHO SHOULD BE NOTIFIED AND THEY APPEAR AT THE END OF THIS CABLE. HE ALSO TOLD ME BRIEFLY WHAT HE WAS CARRYING IN TWO SUITCASES, A TRUNK AND A ATTACHE CASE:

A) PERSONAL FAMILY FILES

B) SOME OF THE FAMILY SILVER

C) PHOTOGRAPHS, SLIDES AND ALBUMS

D) PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

E) CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THE OFFICERS OF CITIBANK ASSIGNED TO INTER-UNIDO

F) OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN CITIBANK AND WILLIAMS
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G) THE FILE ON THE PROTANGUE NEGOTIATION, A BUSINESS DEAL NOW IN PROCESS

H) 400 DOLLARS IN TRAVELLERS CHECKS HE HAD BOUGHT AT THE OFFICIAL RATE.

HE ASKED THE POLICE TO SET ASIDE TWO ITEMS, HIS PERSONAL FILES

AND THE CORRESPONDENCE WITH CITYBANK.

5. I ASKED ESPIRITO SANTOS FOR A QUICK RESOLUTION OF MY REQUEST THAT WILLIAMS BE RELEASED INTO MY CUSTODY. WE CALLED PETROFF FROM THE HOTEL ROOM TO SEE IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY PROGRESS. HE SAID HE WAS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME IMMEDIATELY HE KNEW SOMETHING FURTHER. WILLIAMS HAS BEEN TREATED COURTEOUSLY, HE IS COMFORTABLE IN THE HOTEL AND IS EATING WELL.

6. AFTER I TALKED WITH PETROFF AND WILLIAMS AND I INFORMED THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHO SAID HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH IMMEDIATELY WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. THE GENERAL CALLED ME AT 1800 HOURS TO SAY HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SEVERAL MPLA AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE HAD BEEN PROMISED A PROMPT REVIEW OF THE ACCUASTION AND WAS TOLD THAT WILLIAMS COULD POSSIBLY BE RELEASED FROM DETENTION THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 19 OR SOMETIME DURING THE DAY AUGUST 20, IF NO CHARGES WERE BROUGHT AGAINST HIM.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WILLIAMS ASKED THAT WE NOTIFY THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE OF HIS SITUATION:

A) MRS ALLAN WILLIAMS, C/O D.L. FITZPATRICK, 177000 BEACH DRIVE, N.E. SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.

WILLIAMS ASKED THAT SHE BE TOLD ONLY THAT HE HAS BEEN DETAINED WHILE THE AUTHORITIES REVIEWED ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN THE TRANSFER OF FOREIGN CURRENCY.

B) ROBERT TERKHORN, IBG, 3 CITIBANK, NEW YORK

C) VICTOR O. PRALL, TELEPHONE 203-354-1849 (NO ADDRESS AVAILABLE).
8, NAIROBI: PLEASE PASS SUBSTANCE TO CITIBANK - ATTENTION
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